

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 01337 281445Z
ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 /022 W
-----111865 281532Z /43

P R 281348Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1570
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 1337

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CARR, FI
SUBJECT: LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMERICANS ARRESTED ABROAD

REF: STATE 147704

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTTEL, EMBASSY SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING
REPLIES:
A. YES
B. YES
C. PUBLIC FUNDED LEGAL ASSISTANCE COMPARES VERY FAVOR-
ABLY WITH PRIVATE COUNSEL, SINCE "PUBLIC DEFENDER" IS SELECTED
BY THE COURTS FROM EXISTING LAW FIRMS ON A SOMEWHAT REVOLVING
BASIS, AND COUNSEL MAY OFTEN HAVE HAD MANY YEARS' EXPERIENCE
IN THE PROFESSION. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT THE FINNISH POLICE
HAVE AUTHORITY TO DETAIN ARRESTEE FOR SEVENTEEN-DAY
INVESTIGATION PERIOD WITHOUT GRANTING VISIT OF LEGAL
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COUNSEL.

3. ALSO, IN CASES OF AN ALLEGATION OF DRUG USAGE (HASH,
MARIHUANA, AND "HARD" DRUGS) REGARDLESS OF AMOUNT, THE
COURTS ARE SEVERE IN THEIR SENTENCING AND WILL ADD TO
THE SENTENCE A PROVISIO THAT THE CONVICTED, IF A FOREIGNER,
IS PROHIBITED FROM RE-ENTRY INTO SCANDINAVIA FOR PERIODS

RANGING FROM THREE TO FIVE YEARS OR MORE DEPENDING ON THE OFFENSE. TO ELABORATE ON THIS SUBJECT, THE EMBASSY CITES THE CAUSES OF TWO AMERICANS ARRESTED AND CONVICTED IN FINLAND IN 1976 (REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE EMBASSY). DURING COURT PROCEEDING THE TWO AMERICANS WERE CHARGED AND CONVICTED ON THE ALLEGATION RPT ALLEGATION THAT EACH SMOKED ONE MARIHUANA CIGARETTE. A MINIMAL FINE WAS IMPOSED, AND AS THEY HAD ALREADY SERVED APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH IN JAIL AWAITING TRIAL, THEY WERE EXPELLED FROM FINLAND AND PROHIBITED RE-ENTRY INTO SCANDINAVIA FOR THREE YEARS

4. WHILE THE FINNS ARE SEVERE WITH OFFENDERS, PARTICULARLY DRUG USERS AND/OR PUSHERS, AND WILL PROBABLY MAINTAIN THIS ATTITUDE, THE EMBASSY DOES NOT WISH TO IMPLY THAT THE FINNISH AUTHORITIES ARE UNCOOPERATIVE WITH THE EMBASSY OR INEQUITABLE IN THEIR TREATMENT OF AMERICANS. EXCEPT IN CASES INVOLVING NATIONAL SECURITY, THE FINNISH AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN PROMPT IN NOTIFYING THE EMBASSY REGARDING ARRESTED AMERICANS AND HAVE GRANTED THE CONSULAR OFFICER IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO THE ARRESTEE FOR AS MANY TIMES AS NECESSARY.

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Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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